



## *Did you know?*

### Diagnostics for Pruritic Skin Disease Using Fecal Flotation

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Dogs and cats can sometimes help veterinarians diagnose their pruritic skin conditions. While we might come up with a negative skin scraping for mites, they may come up with a positive.....on a fecal exam.

How does that work? Pruritic dogs and cats constantly scratch and bite themselves. In all that biting, they may ingest some of the mites resulting in their incidental appearance on a routine fecal flotation. Mite eggs may even be present.

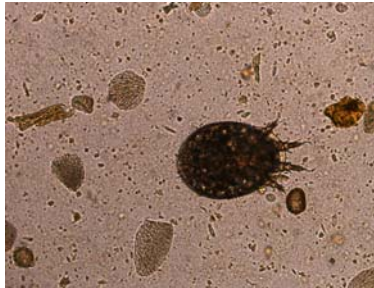
If demodectic or sarcoptic mange, cheyletiella dermatitis or feline notoedric mange are suspected in a patient and multiple skin scrapings are negative for mites, performing a fecal flotation and looking carefully for mites and their eggs may reveal a pleasant surprise. Mange mites should be differentiated from grain mites that are commonly seen in fecal flotations.

A routine fecal flotation may reveal mange mites in the absence of apparent clinical signs. Follow up with the owner and inquire as to the pet's pruritus or other dermatological signs. Schedule an appointment to re-examine the pet for skin disease and perform skin scrapings, biopsy, or other appropriate diagnostic procedures.

Demodex spp. on fecal flotation(40x)



Sarcoptes spp. on fecal flotation (40x)



Grain Mite on fecal flotation (40x)

